Honorable Sir:

In conjunction with the enclosed RCE, kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-8 and add claims 9-16 in the following complete listing of all claims:

1. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELLED)

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (ADDED) A vessel for containing a heated beverage, said vessel comprising:

a substantially horizontal wall having an inner surface in contact with the beverage fluid and an outer surface,

a substantially vertical bottom wall united with said substantially horizontal wall for containing the beverage fluid in the vessel,

a thermochromic display disposed on the outer surface of said substantially horizontal wall, said thermochromic display being characterized by:

i. A plurality of thermochromic ink segments wherein each segment is comprised of the following:

a. a layer of thermochromic ink wherein said layer of thermochromic ink has the following characteristics:

possesses four threshold temperatures herein referred to as threshold temperature 1, threshold temperature 2, threshold temperature 3 and threshold temperature 4, where threshold temperature 2 is greater than or equal to threshold temperature 1, threshold temperature 4 is greater than threshold temperature 2, and threshold temperature 3 is both less than or equal to threshold temperature 4 and greater than threshold temperature 1.

is substantially opaque when possessing a temperature that is below threshold temperature 1.

is substantially transparent when possessing a temperature that is above threshold temperature 4.

has a partially opaque, partially transparent appearance when possessing a temperature that is greater than threshold temperature 2 but less than threshold temperature 4, when said temperature has been achieved by the continuous heating of the thermochromic ink layer from a temperature below threshold temperature 1 to said temperature and with the ratio of opaqueness to transparency decreasing with said temperature's proximity to threshold temperature 4.

has a partially opaque, partially transparent appearance when possessing a temperature that is greater than threshold temperature 1 but less than threshold temperature 3, when said temperature has been achieved by the continuous cooling of the thermochromic ink layer from a temperature above threshold temperature 4 to said temperature and with the ratio of opaqueness to transparency increasing with said temperature's proximity to threshold temperature 1.

b. a temperature indicating mark, image or message disposed between the outer surface of the vessel wall and the layer of thermochromic ink.

ii. at least one thermochromic ink segment possessing a thermochromic ink layer whose threshold temperatures differ from the threshold temperatures of the thermochromic ink layer of at least one other thermochromic ink segment.

10. (ADDED). a beverage containing vessel according to claim 9 wherein the thermochromic display is directly printed onto the outer surface of the vessel.

11.(ADDED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 9 wherein the thermochromic display further comprises a supporting substrate for subsequent attachment to the vessel.

12. (ADDED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 11 wherein the supporting substrate is attached with an adhesive layer.

13.(ADDED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 9 wherein said wall of said vessel comprises a ceramic.

14.(ADDED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 10 wherein said wall of said vessel comprises a ceramic.

15. (ADDED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 11 wherein said wall of said vessel comprises a ceramic.

16. (ADDED) a beverage containing vessel according to claim 12 wherein said wall of said vessel comprises a ceramic.